

Environmental Restoration Project



ER Site No. 7: Gas Cylinder Disposal (Arroyo del Coyote near TA-V)

ADS: 1309

Operable Unit: Tijeras Arroyo

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Primary Contact: [Dick Fate](#)

Office Phone: 284-2568

Site History

Site 7 is an inactive construction-demolition debris dump that covers 7.14 acres of federally owned land controlled by the United States Air Force (USAF). The site is located southwest of the Kirtland Air Force Base (KAFB) horse stables near the junction of Pennsylvania Avenue and the Technical Area III access road. Site 7 is enclosed with a locked chain-link fence on undeveloped land that is located approximately 500 ft southeast of Site [16](#). Site 7 is situated on a terrace above Arroyo del Coyote, which flows on an intermittent basis into the Tijeras Arroyo. The site slopes gently to the northwest at an average elevation of about 5,470 feet amsl. The surficial sediments consist of fluvial terrace deposits (silt to boulder-sized material), which are underlain by the upper unit of the Santa Fe Group. The regional aquifer is projected to be approximately 500 feet bgs. The nearest monitor wells are AVN-1 and AVN-2, both of which are located approximately 0.6 miles west of Site 7. The nearest water-supply well, KAFB-11, is located 2.7 miles north of the site.

The erroneous listing of Site 7 as an environmental concern during the mid-1980s Comprehensive Environmental Assessment and Response Program (CEARP) process was solely based on the misinterpretation of the original CEARP interview notes. A single CEARP interview comment that stated "...some poisonous gas cylinders were buried in a 6 to 8 ft pit about 3/4 of mile south of building 9966..." was erroneously attributed the present location of Site 7. Subsequent discussions with the original interviewee has both confirmed the misinterpretation and that no gas cylinders were disposed of in the vicinity of Arroyo del Coyote. The true location of the gas cylinders was in Thunder Range at Site [6A](#), which is located about two miles south of Site 7. The gas cylinders were excavated in 1995 by the Southwest Test Area Operable Unit (OU).

Interpretation of historical aerial photography indicates that Site 7 was a sand and gravel quarry from 1973 to 1986. Two KAFB employees were interviewed in 1994 and both had direct

knowledge of activities at Site 7 for the period since 1980. The quarry was used by both SNL/NM and KAFB until 1986. Eventually, the quarry became approximately 20-ft deep and about 5 acres in size. In 1986, the northern two-thirds of the quarry was backfilled with construction debris from the demolition of a Veterans Administration hospital at KAFB. The debris consisted of concrete rubble, asphalt rubble, and scrap metal. No asbestos or hazardous material was buried at the site. The fence was installed to prevent the scavenging of buried scrap metal and to prevent unauthorized dumping. In 1989, the northern portion of the debris was covered with clean fill and the area leveled. During 1989 and 1990, the site was used by a KAFB Defense Evaluation Support Activity unit to temporarily store vehicles, transport containers, and office trailers. A gamma radiation survey was conducted at Site 7 in 1993; no radioactive anomalies were detected. Currently, Site 7 contains an estimated 10,000 to 30,000 cubic yards of construction-demolition debris.

Constituents of Concern

The earlier supposition that gas cylinders were buried at Site 7 has proven to be erroneous. SNL/NM has not used the site for testing or disposal operations. Therefore, no COCs are identified for Site 7.

Current Hazards

No chemical or radioactive hazards are present at ER Site 7. However, concrete rubble and metal debris are scattered across the site.

Current Status of Work

Sandia National Laboratories / New Mexico (SNL/NM) submitted a No Further Action (NFA) Proposal in June 1995. SNL/NM submitted responses to New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Notice of Deficiency (NOD) comments in October 1996 and December 1999. Because SNL/NM did not use ER Site 7 for testing or disposal operations, responsibility for the site was transferred from Department of Energy / Sandia National Laboratories (DOE/SNL) to KAFB in March 2000. NMED accepted the NFA in March 2000. The NFA was approved by NMED on September 15, 2000, after completing the public review and permit modification process.

Future Work Planned

No future work is planned at ER Site 7.

Waste Volume Estimated/Generated

No SNL/NM waste was disposed of at ER Site 7.

Information for ER Site 7 was last updated Jun 27, 2001.